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Merrimack College Record

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MERRIMACK COLLEGE

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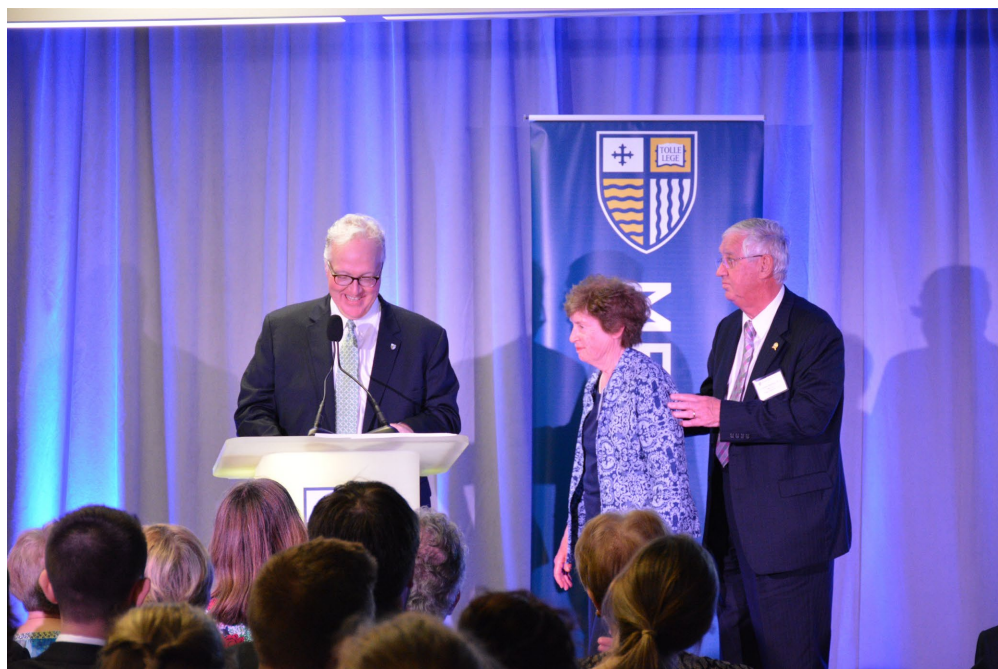
Reminder: Town Hall on Tuesday in Rogers Center

The President's annual Town Hall Meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 22, in the Rogers Center for the Arts.

The president will review the successes of the past year and discuss the College's future direction. He will also honor employees who have reached five-year milestones at Merrimack. Town Hall will be followed at noon by an employee cookout on North Campus, in front of Crowe Hall.

Town Hall will closely follow the events of Commencement weekend.

'Together We Discover' Celebrates Research, Supporters



President Hopey with Susan '62 and Dr. Laurence Demers '60.

Merrimack College held a celebration May 3 for the ongoing and innovative research being performed on campus and the generous investments by benefactors who keep that research going.

At the Together We Discover event, Dr. Laurence M. Demers '60 H'11 and Susan Demers '62, The Anthony and Gladys Sakowich Charitable Foundation, and James C. '75 and Christine M. Zampell '75, were honored for their continuing support of research at the College. The celebration, attended by more than 100 guests, included interactive

demonstrations and briefings on current research being done by leading professors and students in The Casey Family Engineering Innovation Center located in the Mendel Science Center.

"I am proud to be here at an institution that does such good for so many, and that attracts such thoughtful and giving people as yourselves," said President Christopher E. Hopey. "Your support means so much every day."

Demers is a distinguished professor emeritus of pathology and medicine at Penn State College of Medicine and a former chairman of Merrimack's board of trustees. Susan Demers is a former chemist for Raytheon. They established the Laurence M. Demers Professorship in Life Sciences to support scholar-researchers, which is currently held by Charlotte Berkes, associate professor of biology.

The Sakowich name has become legendary on campus through the Sakowich Campus Center, endowed scholarships and many gifts that have improved student life, Hopey said. Their foundation's newest legacy includes significant endowments to create an undergraduate research center and a scholarship.

Senior Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations Sara Jane Brazda announced that Delia Cormier '22 is the first recipient of the Anthony and Gladys Sakowich Foundation Endowed Scholarship, established with a \$1 million endowment. The scholarship is awarded to students from the Merrimack Valley and New Hampshire Lakes Region and/or those who have enjoyed the services of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Cormier, of Laconia (N.H.) High School, who is president of her senior class, took part in extracurricular activities such as track, cross-country, and basketball, was named female athlete of the season, was homecoming queen, and carried a 3.9 grade point average. She will enter Merrimack this fall as a civil engineering major.

The Anthony J. Sakowich Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities will give students and faculty on-campus summer research experiences across all disciplines. The program promotes scholarly collaboration between students and faculty from mid-May to mid-July.

James and Christine Zampell are the founders of Zampell, an industrial manufacturing organization that specializes in engineering and construction of refractories, insulation, and scaffolding, as well as facilities maintenance and management in the commercial sector. Christine Zampell is a former trustee of Merrimack, and together she and Jim are vice chairs of the College's Together for Good Campaign. On top of their generous scholarship endowments, they have endowed Merrimack's first faculty fellowship program, The Zampell Family Faculty Fellowship, which will provide \$50,000 annually in perpetuity.

Zampell Fellowships offer professional development opportunities in the form of grants to pursue research, writing, conferences, special equipment and opportunities to grow student collaborations and research. The five inaugural Zampell Family Faculty Fellows for the 2017–18 year were on hand to meet the Zampells, including: Sadegh Asgari, assistant professor of civil engineering; Isabelle Cherney, dean, School of Education and Social Policy; Anne Gatling, associate professor of education; Amelia Mallona, assistant professor of education; and James Kaklamanos, assistant professor of civil engineering.

For Brazda, the evening shone a spotlight on the generosity of Merrimack's alumni and friends. "This amazing support allows faculty and students to conduct original research and creates a plethora of experiential learning opportunities for students. It also rewards faculty for their research efforts and contributes to a growth in the intellectual vibrancy of our community—ultimately enhancing the value of a Merrimack education," she said.

Hopey used the opportunity to report that the Together for Good Campaign—the largest fundraising effort in Merrimack's history, with a goal of \$50 million—has now raised more than \$49 million in total, including more than \$20 million since its 2016 public launch.

"Thanks in large part to partners like those we honor tonight, Merrimack has reached new heights," Hopey said. "And thanks to you, we know we can climb even higher, achieve even more, and shine even brighter."

15th Tolle Lege event celebrates Merrimack authors



Merrimack's McQuade Library held its 15th Annual Tolle Lege Reception April 26 to recognize the 99 faculty, staff and graduates who published 185 pieces of written work in 2017.

"I think you embody the best of Merrimack spirit, being able to balance scholarship and teaching," said Provost Allan Weatherwax.

Featured speakers for this year's reception, which was held at the Writers House, included assistant professor of health sciences April Bowling, assistant professor of civil engineering Cindy Carlson, assistant professor of accounting and finance Fan Chen, associate professor of political science Anne Flaherty, assistant professor of religious and theological studies Autumn Ridenour, and assistant professor of education Rory Tannebaum. Each spoke broadly about their research.

The reception was the type of event colleges and universities need to hold in order to foster collaboration among disciplines, Flaherty said afterward. Faculty often see each other in college settings such as Faculty Senate but don't often have opportunities to share their research across disciplines, which can then foster ideas for collaboration.

"The more we know about what others are doing, the more connections we can make to solve ... the real problems in the world," Flaherty said.

Tolle Lege is Latin for the command "take up and read," which is the message St. Augustine famously heard a mysterious voice at the start of his conversion to Catholicism. He understood the message to mean that he should open the Bible and read the first passage he came across. That passage turned out to be Paul's Epistle to the Romans 13:13-14 about the transformation of believers.

McQuade Library holds the published materials of its Tolle Lege Collection on the second floor and, increasingly, on the Internet at Merrimack ScholarWorks. The collection includes books, chapters of books, essays, and peer-review articles from journals and magazines, said Library Director Kathryn Geoffrion-Scannell.

Merrimack police host emergency response training

The entire Merrimack College Police Department and officers from area police departments recently underwent a training session in nationally recognized methods for responding to crimes of violence.

The Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) is the FBI's national

standard for responding to active shooters and is used by major metropolitan and state police departments around the country.

Sixty officers from seven police department throughout Greater Boston, including Andover and North Andover, underwent ALERRT's program in April, hosted by Merrimack College and Andover police in Sullivan Hall. The federally funded training was led ALERRT-certified officers from the Andover and Houston, Texas, police departments and Virginia State Police. Merrimack police Lt. Michael C. Kelly, who is in charge of training for the department, worked with Andover police Lt. Chris Moore for nearly a year to organize the training.

"Merrimack College is fortunate to have a full-service police department," said Police Chief Michael DelGreco. "Many colleges have only a security department."

"Our goal now is to implement this active shooter training once a year in coordination with Andover Police Department and North Andover Police Department, because ultimately both agencies would be involved if there were an active shooter incident on campus," Kelly said. "Another goal of our agency is to get several of our own officers certified as instructors through the ALERRT program."

The training went hand-in-hand with training for faculty, staff and students held earlier this year that taught escape and defense methods, Kelly noted.

Health Leader Koh Delivers First SHS Distinguished Lecture



Dean Kyle McInnis greets Dr. Howard Koh, with Provost Allan Weatherwax at the lectern.

Former U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. Howard Koh joined Merrimack as the inaugural speaker for the School of Health Sciences' Distinguished Lecturer Series. Koh is a professor of practice in public health leadership at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public

Health and the Harvard Kennedy School. Merrimack College awarded him an honorary degree

in 1999. In 2009, Former President Barack Obama named Koh the 14th assistant secretary of health for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

He spoke April 19 on the importance of disease prevention to ease the burden of global chronic illness, then took part in a question-and-answer forum with hundreds of students and

faculty inside the Rogers Center for the Arts.

Americans deserve better health no matter their age, ethnicity, orientation, gender identification, social and economic status, or any other classification, Koh said. The per-capita health care costs in the United States are “through the roof” and even with the high costs, the U.S. ranks 40th worldwide in life expectancy.

“The time you appreciate your health most is when you don’t have it anymore,” he said.

What Koh called “diseases of despair,” such as the abuse of opioid drugs, are at crisis level.

“It

has caught the attention of both sides of the (political) aisle,” he said. “This is one of the key public health concerns of our time.”

“We are thrilled to have Dr. Koh present the distinguished lecture for the new School of Health Sciences,” said Dean Kyle McInnis. “Dr. Koh is legend in the field of public health.”

“It was an exciting opportunity for students to hear how their careers will be so well positioned as an emphasis on prevention will be the key to helping all Americans achieve a healthy lifestyle,” McInnis said.

Liberal Arts Dean Search Committee Organizes

The College has named a search committee to nominate candidates for the next dean of the School of Liberal Arts, with the intention of beginning the search process this summer.

The committee, chaired by Provost Allan Weatherwax, held its first organizational meeting following an open forum for faculty on strengths and qualifications sought in a dean. It includes Associate Dean Mark Allman, Associate Professor Christina Hardway, Associate Professor Lisa Perks, Professor Simona Sharoni, Associate Professor Kathleen Sills and Assistant Professor Joseph Vogel, liberal arts senior administrator Barbara Oliveira, and two presidential appointees: Executive Vice President Jeffrey Doggett and Chief of Staff Jim Chiavelli.

The search is being facilitated by the firm Storbeck Pimental & Associates.

Professor Plasse Honored with AAUP Hogan Award



The Merrimack College chapter of the American Association of University Professors presented English professor Marie Plasse with its 2018 Thomas P. Hogan Award for Excellence in Collegial Governance during a ceremony honoring her on April 25.

“I’m very honored to have been chosen for this award, not only because it represents recognition from my faculty peers, but also because the long history of this award at Merrimack underscores how much we value shared governance at Merrimack,” Plasse said. “Shared governance is hard work, but it’s always worth it and always important because it helps create and sustain the kind of institution we all want to be part of.”

Although the award recognizes the work of one person every year, it’s important to

remember that shared governance is a collective effort, Plasse said.

President Christopher Hopey congratulated Plasse and urged the AAUP to join in finding a new way forward for shared governance, in an changing higher education landscape.

The Hogan Award was established for professor of economics Thomas P. Hogan in 1988. It recognizes members of the college community who have advanced the causes of equity, openness, and joint professional responsibility as principles of collegial governance.

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